

Dear Citizens,

Happy New Year and best wishes!

Thank you for your continued support in the recent election and the opportunity to serve Manitou Springs as your Mayor. I have been asked many times what is it like to be Mayor of Manitou Springs. My reply is always the same; city business is never boring. The Council has new issues to consider or old problems that recycle because the needs of the community constantly change and city government should respond accordingly.

Some people might prefer no change but a small city must keep in step with other cities as well as what is currently happening in our state. No one can turn the clock back and continue to maintain a lively and vibrant community. Instead, I see 2004 as an opportunity to initiate some significant changes to our downtown area and begin to upgrade some badly worn out infrastructure.

A letter from a citizen asked me why he should care about our downtown improvements since he neither shops nor frequents downtown activities. My response was direct. Our downtown supports our revenue base to the tune of 65 percent. Those dollars support all our city services and without a lively, clean and attractive downtown area people will no longer see us as a tourist destination and a fun place for a few hours. The cost of living in our city would increase dramatically for all home owners.

We have a plan for re-vitalizing downtown, and with the grants the City is receiving, and a small sales tax increase that was voted on in the past election, plus a newly formed business improvement district created by the majority of businesses and property owners, we are optimistic that changes will be happening soon.

City Council and our citizens have some unique opportunities in the near future and, in my opinion, standing still is not an option, but moving forward and making our City special to all who live here and visit must be our goal.

Sincerely,

Marcy Morrison

Mayor, City of Manitou Springs